

NEW FOREST  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Annual Report

on

Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions

of the

New Forest Rural District

## for the Year 1950

Submitted to the Rural District Council

by

GEORGE HABGOOD, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health to the New Forest Rural District Council



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## NEW FOREST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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### MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1950.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the New Forest Rural District for the year ending December 31st, 1950.

#### STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ... ... ... ...	94,957
Estimated Resident Population ... ...	44,200
Estimated number of inhabited houses ...	12,312
Rateable Value 1st April, 1951 ... ...	£295,634
Sum represented by a penny rate (for the financial year ended March 31st, 1950) ... £1165. 0. 10.	

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, shows an increase of 2,720 over 1949.

#### SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING THE CHIEF INDUSTRIES CARRIED ON IN THE AREA.

The largest area of the district is the ancient Crown Forest. Forestry is therefore an important industry and represents in many direct and indirect ways the occupations of the inhabitants inside the waterside parishes. There are also a considerable number of smallholders having Forest Rights, who are engaged in calf-rearing and pig-keeping. The areas bordering the Forest on the North, East and South are, except actually on the waterside, agricultural, whilst the waterside portions of the parishes of Eling, Marchwood, Dibden and Fawley are principally industrial, which includes timber works, tar distilling, flying-boat works, a large petroleum refinery and other light industries. These parishes are therefore mainly inhabited by industrial workers.

No occupation has had any adverse effect on public health so far as is known.

## EXTRACTS OF VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

<b>Live Births:</b>			M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	329	346	675
Illegitimate	...	...	15	17	32
			344	363	707
			—	—	—

**Birth Rate:** per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.99  
 Birth Rate for England and Wales.....15.80

<b>Still Births:</b>			M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	4	2	6
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1

**Rate:** per 1,000 total (live and still births).....16.15

<b>Deaths:</b>			M.	F.	Total
			230	253	483

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.92  
 Death Rate for England and Wales.....11.60

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 of live and still births				Nil

<b>Infant Mortality:</b>			M.	F.	Total
Deaths of infants under one year of age	9	11	20		
Legitimate	...	8	10		
Illegitimate	...	1	1		

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	21.11
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	26.66
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	62.50
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales.....	29.80

### **The Chief Causes of Death were:**

Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	156
Cancer of all sites	...	...	...	...	96
Intra Cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	66
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	25
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	13

No conditions of occupation or environment appear to have had a prejudicial effect upon health.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### **Public Health Officers of the Authority:**

- 1 Medical Officer of Health (part time).
- 1 Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 3 Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

A moiety of the salaries of all Officers is received under the Public Health Acts and the Sanitary Officers devote the whole of their time to their duties.

### **Laboratory Facilities:**

For chemical examinations at the Southampton Corporation Laboratory and bacteriological examinations at the Public Health Laboratories, Winchester and Southampton.

A fee is charged by the Southampton Corporation. The Public Health Laboratories Service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health and no fees are charged.

### **Ambulance Facilities:**

Ambulance Stations in the area are sited as follows:—

- Avenue Road, Brockenhurst (B.R.C.S.).....Tel. 3319.
- “Haral,” Ringwood Road, Totton.....Tel. 2120.
- “Ynot,” Holbury Drove, Fawley (S.J.A.B.)...Tel. 217.

Infectious cases (with the exception of smallpox cases for which special arrangements are made) are carried by both Brockenhurst and Totton ambulances.

The County Ambulance Service has other stations adjacent to the area at Christchurch, New Milton, Lymington, Romsey and Ringwood.

### **Nursing at Home:**

A Domestic Home Help Scheme is administered by the Local Health Authority.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres:**

These services are provided by the Local Health or Local Education Authority, the County Council:—

#### **(a) Ante-Natal Clinics:**

Totton.....Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.  
1st and 3rd Mondays at 2 p.m.

Lymington.....Parish Hall.  
2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

(b) **Speech Clinic:**

Southampton..... 18, Archers Road.  
Fridays 9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

(c) **Child Welfare Centres:**

Boldre - Memorial Hall,  
Pilley..... 2nd Thursday.  
Bramshaw - Village Hall..... 4th Wednesday.  
Brockenhurst - Morant Hall.... 1st & 3rd Tuesdays.  
Copythorne - Foresters' Hall,  
Bartley..... 1st & 3rd Thursdays.  
Dibden Purlieu - Women's  
Institute..... 2nd Tuesday.  
East Boldre - Parish Hall..... 1st Thursday.  
Exbury - Women's Institute.... 2nd Thursday.  
Fawley - Methodist Hall..... 1st & 3rd Mondays.  
Hythe - St. John's Hall..... 4th Tuesday.  
Lyndhurst - Church Hall..... 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.  
Marchwood - Church Hall..... 1st & 3rd Tuesdays.  
Minstead - The Hut..... 2nd Thursday.  
Sway - Women's Institute..... 2nd Tuesday.  
Totton - Health Centre,  
Rumbridge Street..... Each Friday at 10 a.m.  
and 2 p.m.

(All centres commence at 2 p.m. except where otherwise stated).

(d) **Day Nurseries:** Nil.

### SCHOOL CLINICS.

(I). **Dental Clinics** (for School and pre-School children, expectant and nursing mothers) :

Held at various schools and centres as required.

Requests for special appointments should be sent to the County Medical Officer.

(II). **Minor Ailments** (for School and pre-School children) :

Totton..... Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.  
Every Tuesday at 9.30 a.m.

Lymington..... Parish Hall.  
Every Tuesday at 9.30 a.m.

(Children attend these Clinics without appointments).

(III). **Ophthalmic** (for School and pre-School children) :

Held at Totton and Lymington. Attendance only by appointment from the County Medical Officer.

#### (IV). **Orthopaedic Clinics:**

Totton..... Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.  
Surgeon's Clinic.... 3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m., odd months.  
Remedial Clinic.... Every Monday at 9.30 a.m. and  
Wednesday 9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

Cases from the New Forest Rural District are also  
dealt with at Lymington Remedial Clinic, held at  
the Literary Institute on Thursday at 2 p.m.

#### (V). **Tuberculosis Clinics:**

Totton..... Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.  
Thursdays at 10 a.m.  
Christchurch..... Health Centre, Millhams Street.  
Mondays at 10 a.m.

#### (VI). **Maternity Accommodation:**

Maternity accommodation is the responsibility of the  
Regional Hospital Board and beds are provided at:—

Hythe Cottage Hospital, Hythe.  
Fenwick Cottage Hospital, Lyndhurst.  
Hill Rise Maternity Home, Lyndhurst.

Applications for the admission of normal cases for  
social reasons should be made to the County Medical  
Officer. Arrangements for the admission of abnormal  
cases and those requiring institutional confinement on  
account of other medical conditions, should be made  
by the general practitioner obstetrician direct with the  
Institution concerned.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water.

No. of samples of Water taken	Results of Exam.		Remedial Work Done		Remarks
	Fit	Unfit	Piped service installed	Wells improved and water made fit	
111	67	44	36	5	Unfit wells are in hand.

As opposed to the exceptionally dry summer of 1949,  
1950 was exceptionally wet, and no shortage of water occurred  
in the district, and resort to erection of standpipes was  
unnecessary although prepared for.

The scheme prepared under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944 and referred to in previous reports, involving extensions of the mains of the Southampton Corporation under guarantee agreement and commenced in 1949, has progressed most favourably during the year as will be seen from the following:—

- (a) Total of length of Mains involved.....13,823 lineal yds.
- (b) Estimated cost.....£15,483.
- (c) Completed at end of 1950.....10,119 lineal yds.
- (d) Remaining to be completed Spring 1951...3,704 lineal yds.

An important change was brought about when the Southampton Corporation decided to proceed with the laying of a trunk Main from Romsey via Ower, to Lyndhurst, which in addition to improving the water supply throughout a large part of the Council's district, afforded a means of pruning extensions of the original scheme thereby making an appreciable saving in cost and without reducing the area of supply. The co-operation and help of the Southampton Corporation in carrying out this scheme has always been readily forthcoming, and in the most cordial manner and the work carried out most expeditiously.

It can also be said that the Bramshaw and Minstead scheme (mentioned in previous reports) under the direction of the Council's Engineer, water being purchased in bulk from the Southampton Corporation, has also made satisfactory progress and it is anticipated that it will be completed at the end of 1951 or early 1952, commensurate upon the delivery of pipes.

The scheme for the extension of the West Hants Water Mains involving 27,465 lineal yards to serve the Parish of Beaulieu, was also commenced during November and the time of completion is expected to be in the spring of next year (scheme completed 1951). As in the case of the Southampton Corporation, the same remarks apply in our dealings with the West Hants Water Company.

In addition to the foregoing major schemes, a minor extension involving approximately 800 lineal yards of the Southampton Corporation Mains to supply Rowdown, Fawley, was prepared, and completed during the year. This extension required the sanction of the Ministry of Health for a "fringe order" as the area is without the limits of supply. The extension serves fifteen dwellings and a small holding.

A small extension of the West Hants Water Mains involving approximately 450 yards of 4" Main to serve Pilley Bailey was also prepared but not carried out owing to delay in acquiring pipes.

The Statutory Water Undertakers have also laid approximately 2,000 yards of 4" Mains in the Parishes of Eling, Fawley, Brockenhurst, East Boldre and Dibden. They were laid principally to serve new Council Housing Estates.

When the beforementioned schemes are completed it is estimated that 90% to 95% of properties in the district will have a piped water supply available and only in the most rural isolated places will they remain dependent upon wells.

The total length of Mains making up these schemes and the cost involved, excluding the small itinerant ones to which reference is made, should not be overlooked, and in relation to the extent of the district it will no doubt be accepted that it is no mean achievement when it is realised that 70,000 yards (roughly 40 miles) will have been laid at an approximate cost of £103,000.

In the field of preventive medicine, this work will without doubt prove, despite the high cost involved, much cheaper than the figures perhaps indicate, and the Council can rightly feel gratified in providing such a vital instrument to good health and a social amenity of the utmost necessity.

#### ACTION IN RESPECT OF ANY FORM OF CONTAMINATION.

First importance has again been given to providing houses with a piped supply of water. A total of 111 samples were taken, an increase of 36 over 1949, from wells and other sources of supply, of which 44 were found to be polluted.

As a result of informal and formal action, 36 properties were provided with a piped supply from the Mains and in 5 cases the wells were made fit. In three cases where it was not practicable to render the water safe, and where no main supply was available, low pressure filters were provided and these work most satisfactorily.

The district is supplied with water by two statutory Undertakers - Southampton Corporation and the West Hants Water Co. The supply is constant and the quality satisfactory.

The village of Exbury has a piped supply in the houses provided by the Exbury Estate. The supply is from a deep well approximately 300ft. deep, pumped to a water tower, thence by gravitation to the houses. Samples for bacteriological examination are taken regularly and the quality has conformed to the standard laid down by the Ministry of Health for public water undertakers - coliform bacilli being consistently absent in 100 m.l.

The supply to the village of Emery Down and the new Council Estate at Northerwood is under the control of the Council, water being purchased in bulk from the Southampton Corporation and boosted by two automatic electrically controlled pumps.

No waters are known to have any plumbo solvent action and there are no known cases of plumbism.

### **Percentage Number of Dwelling Houses in the District supplied from Public Water Mains.**

Parish						Percentage of houses connected to Mains
Lyndhurst	...	...	...	...	...	96
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	...	99
Copythorne	...	...	...	...	...	62
Sway	...	...	...	...	...	92
Fawley	...	...	...	...	...	92
East Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	60
Dibden	...	...	...	...	...	91
Marchwood	...	...	...	...	...	89
Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	...	67
Eling	...	...	...	...	...	99
Denny Lodge	...	...	...	...	...	2
Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	84
Minstead	...	...	...	...	...	35
Bramshaw	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rhinefield	...	...	...	...	...	63

- (a) Total Number of houses connected to Main Supply...9,690
- (b) Estimated population supplied with Main Water...35,853
- (c) Estimated % of population supplied with Main Water 81%

### **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

The Council have continued the progress made in providing main drainage schemes and the extension of existing schemes. The scheme for sewerage part of the Parish of East Boldre was commenced during the year providing for 43 private dwellings and a Council Estate of 60 dwellings. The sewage is treated at a disposal works consisting of detritus and settlement tanks, filters, humus tanks and sludge beds, the final effluent discharging into a stream.

A small but important extension was made to the Eling Sewers at Calmore Gardens and Coblands Avenue, Totton. The conditions here as previously reported, were very insanitary and I am glad to be able to report that they have now been abated.

Whilst the anticipated commencement of the Dibden Main Drainage Scheme has not taken place, I am informed that a definite start will be made in the Spring of 1951, which, in view of the divers difficulties confronting one nowadays, is most satisfactory. Regarding these facilities for the built up areas of the Parish of Fawley, whilst I know every effort is being made to expedite this scheme, I trust I may be forgiven for again reiterating the urgency for providing such facilities in this Parish.

Special efforts have continued during the year in persuading owners of properties to provide main drainage in those areas which are sewered, and the progress made in the face of high costs and material difficulties, is thought to be satisfactory.

As a result of informal action 49 properties were converted from conservancy and the drains connected to Public Sewers.

The total number of connections made to the public sewers during the year and for the previous five years is shown in the following table:—

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
63	66	73	78	75	97

Defective and insufficient drainage systems and sanitary accommodation have also received attention and the following work carried out:—

(a) Defective drains repaired.....	45
(b) Defective and insufficient sanitary accommodation dealt with.....	22
(c) Sinks and sink waste drainage provided.....	9
(d) Defective cesspits dealt with.....	25
(e) Improvements and modifications to small sewage disposal plants.....	2

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Action was taken in regard to a number of cases in which sewage was found to be discharging into streams. The persons responsible were requested to abate the nuisance. A number of water courses have been cleansed by informal action with the responsible persons.

The passing of the River Boards Act of 1948 has potentially changed the whole control of river pollution and if the report of the River Pollution Prevention Sub-Committee of the Central Advisory Water Committee is implemented considerable changes in the laws for controlling pollution will result. There is little doubt that a strengthening of the law on Pollution is very necessary.

Under the Act, a Hampshire River Board has been constituted and they will be the responsible body vested with river pollution prevention powers.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Council have again very carefully considered the question of providing a more frequent collection of domestic refuse in the built up portions of the district, and whilst anxious to bring this about, they are most reluctantly unable to do so at present, in view of the heavy and important public health commitments involved in providing main water and sewerage facilities. There has, therefore, been no change in the present fortnightly collection of domestic refuse and weekly collection of trade refuse, throughout the whole of the district. The service is carried out by the Council's own staff and plant, under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Seven ten cubic yard Dennis side loading vehicles, an 8 h.p. Ford Van and 23 personnel are employed.

The issue of protective clothing has continued, each man being issued with one suit of oilskins, two suits of overalls and a pair of gumboots.

Protective clothing is considered to be an essential part in the efficiency and smooth working of a service of this nature and has an important bearing on absence due to sickness. The time lost due to sickness during the year would appear to compare favourably with other manual and trading activities.

It has again been difficult to maintain a full complement of collectors which for the most part of the year has been below strength. The disposal of refuse has continued to be by controlled tipping at Marchwood, Fawley, Sway and Stoney Cross.

Details of refuse collection work are as follows:—

No. of premises	No. of Loads	Equivalent to approx. tons.	Galls. of Petrol used	Mileage
12312	3301	9900	7485	62049

### Litter Baskets:

Litter baskets are provided by the Council in areas popular with holidaymakers and also at bus stops and other places where they are required to prevent litter.

## COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SALVAGE.

Salvage is collected from private dwellings at the same time as domestic refuse.

All salvage, including that from business premises, is collected and dealt with by the refuse collecting staff, there being no separate organisation to deal with this work.

### Salvage Collected and Disposed.

Articles	Tons.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper & Cardboard	207	11	1	23	818	4	6
Textiles .. ...	8	2	3	7	145	0	8
Scrap Metal ...	0	16	3	14	19	13	0
<b>Totals ... ...</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>

## CESSPIT EMPTYING.

The Council undertakes the cleansing of cesspits free of direct charge at intervals of approximately, but not less than six months, by contract with the Hampshire Cleansing Company.

Emptying of cesspits on Council Housing Estates is carried out by the Council's own plant and staff under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor.

At the end of the year 2,300 properties, excluding Council House Estates, were receiving this service.

## HOUSING.

During the year 165 applicants on the Council's Housing List were rehoused, leaving at the end of the year 1,050; 124 more than at the end of 1949. In taking this figure as an accepted measure of realistic need, it will be seen that there is indeed great urgency for a considerable speeding up of the present Housing programme, and I regret that it is still necessary for me to comment upon the little inroad which is being made in alleviating unsatisfactory housing conditions. It is anticipated that in 1951, 200 families will be rehoused, so that the position will not be materially altered for some considerable time hence, and I cannot visualise any practicability, therefore, of resuming a programme for slum clearance under the Housing Acts, other than what is being done now as the opportunity arises, the principle of which I referred to in my last report. In this way, after official representation, four "demolition orders" were served in respect of four cottages in the Parishes and Fawley and Eling and three undertakings accepted in regard to three cottages in the Parishes of Boldre

and Eling. At the end of the year the four cottages had been demolished and the remaining three vacated. All the families were rehoused by the Council.

1.	Inspections of Dwelling Houses (other than Hobhouse Survey):					
	(a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected	...	163			
	(b) Number of visits and inspections made in connection therewith	...	...	...	681	
2.	Summary of defects remedied during the year:					
	(a) Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	46	
	(b) Defective floors taken up and renewed or repaired	...	...	...	29	
	(c) Dampness abated	...	...	...	24	
	(d) Major items of disrepair remedied (including improved light, ventilation and general disrepair)				31	
	(e) Other items of disrepair	...	...	...	25	

**(a) Number of Houses erected by Private Enterprise:**

Parish of Beaulieu	...	...	...	...	1
Parish of Boldre	...	...	...	...	1
Parish of Bramshaw	...	...	...	...	1
Parish of Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	2
Parish of Copythorne	...	...	...	...	2
Parish of Dibden	...	...	...	...	3
Parish of Eling	...	...	...	...	9
Parish of Fawley	...	...	...	...	7
Parish of Marchwood	...	...	...	...	1
Parish of Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	1
Parish of Rhinefield	...	...	...	...	2
Parish of Sway	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					32

Number erected in 1949.....39

**(b) Number of Council Houses erected during year:**

Parish of Eling	...	...	...	...	38
Parish of Fawley	...	...	...	...	64
Parish of Beaulieu	...	...	...	...	16
Parish of Sway	...	...	...	...	26
Parish of Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	6
Parish of Lyndhurst	...	...	...	...	12
					—
					162
Number erected in 1949.....	176				—
Total number of Houses erected in 1948	...	...	...	...	139
Total number of Houses erected in 1949	...	...	...	...	215
Total number of Houses erected in 1950	...	...	...	...	194

### **Particulars of Houses owned by the Local Authority:**

Parish of Boldre	...	...	...	...	52
Parish of Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	82
Parish of Copythorne	...	...	...	...	30
Parish of Dibden	...	...	...	...	32
Parish of East Boldre	...	...	...	...	34
Parish of Eling	...	...	...	...	340
Parish of Fawley	...	...	...	...	171
Parish of Lyndhurst	...	...	...	...	32
Parish of Marchwood	...	...	...	...	45
Parish of Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	18
Parish of Sway	...	...	...	...	36
					872

Number of families in huttied accommodation ... 313

This shows a decrease of 35 from 1949 - a trend in the right direction.

### **New Forest Gypsies:**

The Council have continued their efforts with the policy of rehousing, educating and up-grading of Gypsy families.

There are three Compounds in the district containing approximately 60 families comprising 267 children and adults. At the end of the year the Council had rehoused in temporary camps, 50 families.

These people are gypsies from the New Forest or elsewhere or sub-standard families of the gypsy type, removed from shacks or other sub-standard dwellings not necessarily on the open Forest.

### **Verminous Premises:**

Four premises were found to be infested with fleas and one with bed bugs. The necessary action was taken.

## RURAL HOUSING.

### **Ministry of Health Circular, 64/44.**

The survey of working class dwellings (not exceeding £20 net Rateable Value) called for by the Ministry of Health under Circular 64/44 and recommended in the Hobhouse Report has now been completed. The final figures are given below:—

Category 1	...	...	...	824
Category 2	...	...	...	3965
Category 3	...	...	...	2873
Category 4	...	...	...	69
Category 5	...	...	...	876
				8607

## Key:

Category	Condition of Dwelling.
1.	Satisfactory in all respects.
2.	Minor defects.
3.	Requiring repair, structural alterations or improvements.
4.	Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.
5.	Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.

## SWIMMING POOLS.

There is only one small swimming pool in the district and this is used only by Girl Guides and School children from Bartley Secondary Modern School, and not open to the public. Regular inspection and sampling of water for bacteriological and chemical examination is carried out during the season. As in the case of all static pools, purification of the water presents a problem.

Hand chlorinating is carried out under the supervision of your Officers and with the exception of intermittent excessive organic matter, the bacteriological standard of the water was fairly satisfactory. During the season approximately 1,100 guides and school children used the pool. Fourteen inspections were made and 24 samples taken.

## MILK AND DAIRIES.

The heading of this chapter appears to be strangely incomplete, for years I have written "Milk, Dairies and Cowsheds" but "Cowsheds" must now be deleted. In October 1949 the cowshed, as such, ceased to be the responsibility of the Public Health Department; milk production is now supervised by a new Central Administration under the Ministry of Agriculture, with delegated powers to the County Agricultural Executive Committee, in this way the production of milk, perhaps the most important of all foods, has passed out of the hands of the Health Authorities - nevertheless, it still remains our duty to ensure the safety of the milk delivered to the Public.

The use of special designations in regard to milk still remains a voluntary Act, I regret that the District has not yet been included in a "specified Area", and hope that this omission will soon be rectified.

There is only one plant for the production of "pasteurised milk", and as before, supervision and periodical sampling has been carried out by the Department on behalf of the County Council.

Eighty-seven farms were licensed by the County Council for the production of "Tuberculin Tested" milk and 31 for the production of "Accredited Milk". It is pleasing to note that there is an increase of 35 dairy farms now licensed for the production of "Tuberculin Tested" milk over 1949. It is hoped that 1951 will show a still greater increase. Twenty-two persons were registered by the District Council for the carrying on the trade of distributor. Nineteen premises not being dairy farms, were registered for use as dairies.

The following Licences were issued by the District Council:—

- 7 Dealers Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 13 Dealers Licences for Pasteurised Milk.
- 1 Dealers Licence for Sterilised Milk.
- 1 Dealers Licence for Accredited Milk.
- 1 Supplementary Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 3 Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk.
- 1 Pasteuriser's Licence (issued on behalf of County Council).

Seventy-four samples (an increase of 37 over 1949) of milk were taken during the year, with the following results:—

Grade.		No. of Samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Pasteurised	...	69	69	—
Heat-treated	...	2	2	—
Ungraded	...	3	2	1

The sale of bottled milk, mostly pasteurised, has considerably increased.

### COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

Two hundred and seventy six complaints of nuisances were received and 868 inspections and visits made in connection therewith. A number were found not justified. The following had been abated at the end of the year:—

House defects.....	63
Defective sanitary fittings.....	20
Choked drains and other drainage defects.....	61
Insanitary accumulations.....	26
Nuisances from keeping of animals.....	4
House pests.....	5
Ditches and water courses.....	14
Miscellaneous.....	25
	—
	218

### Smoke Abatement:

Fourteen smoke observations were made in the Parish of Eling. No statutory action was found necessary.

### **Tar Macadam Plant - Emission of Dust:**

A number of inspections and observations have been made. No complaints against this plant have been received. Solid deposit tests were discontinued during the year.

### **Tar Distillery:**

One complaint only has been received. The responsibility for the control of the emission of obnoxious smells from works of this nature rests with the Alkali etc. Inspectors of the Ministry of Health and is registered under the Alkali etc. Works Regulation Act.

Doctor E. J. Mahler is the Inspector for this district and a close and co-operative liaison exists between him and the Department. His expert advice on other matters affecting the Department is always readily forthcoming and his help is much appreciated.

The new tube still of modern design referred to in my last report was completed in the early part of the year, and I am informed that the plant will make a considerable improvement in all ways over the old plant and will almost, if not entirely, with good housekeeping, remove the obnoxious smell from the works. It must, however, be appreciated that there will always be that "background odour" common to all tar installations and to entirely remove this, Doctor Mahler tells me, would mean a large undertaking and refinements which cannot be demanded. It can be said that great improvement has taken place at these works and Doctor Mahler is now of the opinion that there would appear to be nothing radically wrong with the disposal of foul gases.

### **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949 and THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS (THRESHING AND DISMANTLING OF RICKS) REGULATIONS 1950.**

The above Acts and Regulations came into operation on 3rd March, 1950 and the 24th July, 1950 respectively, and supersede the Rats and Mice Infestation Order, 1943, and are under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The introduction of this new legislation places further responsibility on the Council, which keeps the staff of two fully employed.

Owing to the number of complaints and the amount of work arising therefrom, it has not been found possible to continue the "Block Control" system, except on a minor scale.

Agricultural property continues to be administered by the Hampshire Agricultural Executive Committee, Winchester and all infestations discovered or brought to the notice of the Department in respect of this class of property are passed to the Committee's Pests Officer.

The scheme whereby business premises are serviced and charged on the rateable value proves very satisfactory, and the number of re-infestations within six months has been small. Private property is treated without direct charge.

In following up the complaints of property infested, a number of major infestations have been found and dealt with, many of which have been discovered in overgrown banks and ditches. This source of infestation has been given periodical inspection and treatment. A 10% test baiting of the Public Sewers at Eling, Lyndhurst, and Brockenhurst was carried out during the year in compliance with the Ministry's instructions and found to be free of infestation.

Council owned property has been inspected and serviced, including Refuse Disposal Sites, Sewage Disposal Works, Camp Settlements, etc. During the year 322 complaints were received and 729 premises were found to be infested and were treated. Included in this number were 120 business premises.

The total results obtained were as follows:

No. of Premises Treated	No. of Dead Recovered		Approximate Kill	
	Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice
729	1062	268	7883	4477

## SCHOOLS.

In the district there are 26 schools under the control of the County Education Authority and also a number of private schools and kindergartens.

Twenty-two inspections were made during the year.

At Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst, Totton, Emery Down and Colbury the school premises have water carriage systems connected to the Public Sewers. The Exbury, Hardley and South Baddesley schools have water carriage systems connected to their own disposal plants.

The remaining fourteen Schools rely on conservancy methods.

With the exception of Bramshaw and Minstead, the schools have a piped water supply from the Mains.

## TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Seventy-five inspections were made for the purposes of control of Moveable Dwellings and Camp Sites.

Eleven new licences to erect or station and use moveable dwellings were granted during the year and one refused.

Six conditional licences for camp sites were also granted during the year and two refused. Two of the sites for which conditional licences were granted under the Public Health Act were subsequently refused permission under the Planning Act and did not, therefore, materialise.

There are four licensed sites in the district allowed to accommodate a total of 118 moveable dwellings and 18 licensed dwellings. All licences issued are subject to conditions regarding type of moveable dwelling, drainage, water supply and other sanitary requirements.

It was not found necessary to take any statutory action. Faults found were of a minor character and were corrected by informal action.

Both in camp sites and individual cases, disposal of waste water presented the greatest difficulty. In the case of camp sites, licences were issued subject to a proper drainage system being provided discharging into cesspits or sewage disposal plants.

## FOOD AND DRUGS.

Once again I am able to report that not one complaint was received concerning the food premises in the district. The general standard was found to be fairly good, but it will be some considerable time, and intense education will be needed, before the trade interest is completely reconciled with the Public Health interest.

There is a growing tendency on the part of a number of property owners to convert their sitting rooms and spare bedrooms into cafes and tea-rooms, with the result that the usual tiny scullery designed for small families is used for operations far beyond their capacity, with very unsatisfactory results. It is understandable that the caterer should wish to allocate the maximum amount of space within his premises for dining purposes - yet it is incompatible with hygienic efficiency that the dining space should be subjected to progressive expansion at the expense of the areas devoted to kitchen, food storage accommodation and dish washing.

236 inspections were made during the year and the following work completed:—

Provision of new water heaters.....	11
Improved storage and disposal of refuse.....	4
New food storage accommodation.....	2
Walls renovated and redecorated.....	18
Ceilings renovated and redecorated.....	11
Floors repaired or relaid.....	8
Dirty floors cleansed.....	4
New or improved sanitary accommodation.....	12
Vault closets converted to water closets.....	1
Improved lighting and ventilation.....	3
New drainage systems constructed.....	2
New sinks fixed.....	6
Food room fittings renewed and repaired.....	7
Main water laid on.....	1

### **Ice Cream:**

Seventy eight premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, an increase of 25 over the number in the register last year. Three premises are registered for purposes of manufacture or sale.

During the season 213 inspections were made and 185 samples taken (an increase of 21 and 68 respectively) and submitted for examination by the methylene blue reduction test as recommended by the Ministry of Health.

The samples were graded as follows:—

Grade I (very satisfactory).....	133
Grade II (satisfactory).....	30
Grade III (unsatisfactory).....	7
Grade IV (very unsatisfactory).....	14
Ungraded.....	1

The samples falling into Grades 3 and 4 (approx. 13%) were invariably from bulk supply. They were not confined to any one vendor consistently having bad results, but concerned six manufacturers and 15 vendors. Consequent upon inspection and advice, the quality invariably improved. The fault was caused mainly by lack of sufficient attention to the utmost necessity for hygienic handling of this product and failure to retain at the prescribed temperatures.

This branch of Public Health is most important and has been given the attention it warrants. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that ice cream could so easily be a great danger to consumers if it has been contaminated with organisms of the typhoid, paratyphoid, food poisoning or dysentery groups, a

vehicle which could so easily be introduced with careless handling and capable of giving rise to a considerable outbreak of these infectious diseases.

The results as a whole are considered satisfactory and continue to show improvement, a fact which perhaps bears some relation to our efforts in this direction.

In each case the results are sent to the manufacturer and vendors and where grades 3 and 4 were indicated in ice cream manufactured outside the district, copies of the reports were sent to the Authorities concerned.

The greater part of the ice cream retailed in the district is made by reputable firms and sold ready wrapped; it is to be hoped that the time will soon arrive when all ice cream will be treated in this manner.

I am still a little anxious about our weekend traders who come into this area from outside. Ice cream carried by these people and served from carts, tricycles, motor bicycles and vans, is invariably in bulk, which I must admit gives a much larger margin of profit, but lessens the margin of safety.

I say, without any hesitation whatever, that the only satisfactory way of selling ice cream from stalls and vehicles in the open air is to sell it ready wrapped.

Vehicles and stalls are still not "premises" under the Act, and therefore not registerable, but it is hoped that the proposed new Bye-laws for securing the observance of "Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air", will prove very helpful.

### **Licensed Premises:**

No complaints have been received regarding licensed premises in the area.

I am not quite satisfied that customers are getting their drinks at all times in clean, bacteriologically free glasses. Every Publican likes to give his customers what he considers to be a clean glass, but unfortunately, during rush periods and in some inadequately lighted bars, the full cleansing process is not carried out, and although the glasses may look "nice and bright", they are not bacteriologically satisfactory.

Sanitary conveniences have also been given attention and in regard to cleanliness it can be said that generally a good standard is maintained. In two fairly large premises where the existing accommodation was considered inadequate, the Owners have agreed to meet our requests. In one case the work had

been commenced but not completed at the end of the year. On the comparatively rare occasions on which unsatisfactory conditions are found, little difficulty has been experienced in getting them remedied.

#### MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections.....210

Slaughtering in private slaughter houses is still prohibited under the Defence Regulations. The greater part of the meat and other food stuffs inspected and condemned was from retail shops.

The 12 registered and 5 licensed slaughter houses existing in the district, remained closed throughout the year and it is doubtful indeed whether they will ever again be suitable for the purpose for which they were formerly used.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

2203 lbs. Imported Beef.....	Bone taint - decomposition.
1227 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Home killed Beef.....	Bone taint - decomposition.
52 lbs. Bacon.....	Abcess and excessive mould.
1 Sheep's carcase (60 lbs.).....	Decomposition.
17 Chicken and Offal.....	Decomposition.
3 Bovine Kidneys.....	Nephritis.
8 lbs. Brawn.....	Excessive mould.
38 lbs. Tinned Meat.....	Decomposition - bacterial infection.
4 lbs. Bovine Liver.....	Distomatosis.
113 Tins Meat (various).....	Decomposition.
88 Tins Meat and Gravy.....	Decomposition.
82 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Beef and Pork	
Sausages.....	Decomposition and affected with mould.
13 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Cheese.....	Affected with excessive mould and maggots.
20 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Sweetened Fat.....	Affected with mould.
725 lbs. Peas.....	Infested with maggots and mites.
99 Bags of Swedes.....	Rotten.
194 Tins various Fruit and Veg.	
Products.....	Decomposition.
51 Tins of Milk.....	Decomposition.
36 Tins of Fish Products.....	Decomposition.
19 Tins of Pease Pudding.....	Decomposition.

All condemned foodstuffs, suitable for animal feeding, other than those required to be returned to the wholesaler, were collected and disposed of for that purpose at public institutions, the remainder were buried or burned.

## FACTORIES.

Premises	No. in Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power ... ...	132	68	16	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	41	31	7	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>—</b>

## Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Number of Defects				Defects entailing Prosecution
	Found	Rem- edied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ... ...	12	10	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors	1	—	—	—	—
<b>Sanitary Conveniences :</b>					
Insufficient ... ...	2	2	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	10	8	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Lack of wholesome water supply ... ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ... ...	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

13 Outworkers were employed in the district during the year.

## Summary of Inspections.

Nature of Inspections						No. made
Inspection of Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	103
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	464
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	249
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	868
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	262
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	968
Food & Drugs (Food Preparing Premises, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	624
Inspection of Food ...	...	...	...	...	...	210
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	99
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	153
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	35
Movable Dwellings and Camp Sites	...	...	...	...	...	175
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	14
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	22
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	143
Samples—						
Water	...	...	...	...	...	111
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	74
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	185
Swimming Bath Water	...	...	...	...	...	24
Specimen—	In connection with investigation of infectious diseases					153
	Total					5007

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

One case, a man aged 48, was dealt with under Section 47. An application and complaint was made to the Lymington Magistrates and heard on the 9th February. An order was made for his removal and detention of three months at the Moor Green Hospital, Westend.

## DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

# THE PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

**Notifiable Cases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year:—**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ... ... ...	32	7	—
Whooping Cough ... ...	313	3	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic	4	6	1
“ “ —Non-paralytic	5	—	—
Measles ... ... ...	109	—	—
Diphtheria ... ...	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ... ...	14	1	—
Dysentery ... ...	2	—	—
Meningoccal Infection ... ...	2	2	—
Paratyphoid Fever ... ...	3	1	—
Typhoid ... ... ...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ...	17	2	—
Erysipelas ... ...	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ...	2	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	—	—
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>

The nine cases of poliomyelitis which were notified in August, September and October had an irregular geographical distribution and although exhaustive and thorough investigation was made in each case, the suggested source of infection could be applied to one case only. This case, a man aged 29 who died, was employed as a deck-hand on the Lymington to Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Ferry. At the time the Island was experiencing an outbreak of this disease and it is reasonable to suppose that infection resulted from contact with a case (pre-onset), an abortive case or carrier taking passenger in the Ferry. In one case only is there residual paralysis, a young woman aged 27.

Whooping Cough became prevalent towards the end of April and continued throughout the year. Measles became prevalent in November and December. There were no deaths from either.

For the third successive year no case of Diphtheria has occurred.

**FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.**

During the year 17 cases of food poisoning were notified and the casual organisms and causative agents were identified as follows:—

**(a) Outbreaks due to Identified Agents:**

Total outbreaks	...	...	...	5
Total cases	...	...	...	15

Outbreaks due to:—

- (a) *Salmonella Typhi Murium.*
- (b) *Staphylococci.*

(b) **Single cases:**

Total cases	...	...	...	2
-------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Agent identified:—

- (a) *Salmonella Senftenberg.*
- (b) Unknown.

Extensive field investigations were made in each case and there was no spread of the infection.

Evidence supported by bacteriological examination of specimens by the Public Health Laboratories suggests the following foods were the vehicles of infection:—

- (a) Duck eggs.
- (b) Tinned beans.

In tracing the origin of the duck eggs responsible for the infection in four of these small outbreaks, a weak link was found in that wholesalers keep no records of the origin of consignments. In view of the vulnerability of duck eggs to salmonella infection, it would appear that if practicable, a measure for enforcing the keeping of such records might be considered.

Efforts have continued during the year in regard to the prevention of food contamination by systematic and routine inspections of all food premises and the establishment of personal contact with employers and employees on the aspects of hygiene in relation to food handling.

During the year a total of 449 inspections of food premises, including restaurants, cafes, canteens and ice cream premises were made.

In addition to the issue of appropriate literature on this subject, I circularised the management of all food premises in the district inviting their co-operation in applying measures for the prevention of infection through the agency of food and drink and setting out a code of practice which should be followed by all engaged in the handling of food and drink.

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The work has been continued and 434 children under 5 years of age and 29 children between 5 and 15 years received the complete treatment during the year. The booster doses for children attending school for the first time and during school

life total 51. This is extremely low, and it is intended to introduce a campaign during 1951 to increase this number considerably. The percentage of immunisation of children under 5 years of age appears to be quite good. The number under 1 year of age is also very low, there being only 3 having received the treatment during the year.

### Statistical Details:

Number of children at 31st December, 1950 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1934).

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total Under 15
Age at 31/12/50 i.e. born in year	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1941- 1945	1937- 1940	
N'ber Immunised	3	465	946	696	650	3,110	2,418	7,888

Estimated mid-year child population 1950:	Children under 5.	Children 5-14.
	3,759	6,188

Percentage of children immunised under 5.....62.8%  
Percentage of children immunised 5 to 15.....89.3%

### TUBERCULOSIS.

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1950:

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	2	—	—
5	...	...	2	—	3	5	—	—
15	...	...	6	6	—	—	1	—
25	...	...	1	6	—	—	2	3
35	...	...	2	2	1	—	—	1
45	...	...	2	2	1	—	—	1
55	...	...	4	1	—	—	1	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Totals	...	17	17	5	8	5	7	—

The number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis shows an increase of 17 over 1949. This is almost certainly due to improved use of X-ray investigation and Mantoux tests. The death rate shows a decrease over the past 5 years.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. HABGOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.







